(f) whether there would be any significant impact either on the industry or consumer since the release of spectrum of 2G is only marginal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Communications and IT. As per the MOU, Ministry of Defence will release spectrum for 2G and 3G services in steps from the date of signing of MOU till the completion of an exclusive, dedicated OFC network for Armed Forces.

As soon as the 2G spectrum is released by Defence the same would be allotted to the telecom operators. The initial/start up spectrum is allotted on the basis of Unified Access Service License (UASL) agreement. Additional spectrum beyond initial spectrum is allotted on the basis of subscriber based criteria formulated from time to time.

(f) The additional spectrum to the existing operators when allotted, subject to the availability in multiples of 1MHz, as per the guidelines in forces, shall make some impact on the 'Quality of Service' (QoS) by 2G service providers.

Open standard formats

1339. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Government order issued to use open standard formats for official communication and web interfaces;

(b) if so, the departments that has implemented it; and

(c) if not, Government's stand on using open standard formats in Government offices and institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Open Standards help building e-Governance solution that are interoperable. However, it is a very contentious matter and requires wider consultations with Industry, academia and other stakeholders.

Competition in telecom services

1340. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoT turned BSNL completed transition with introduction of competition in Telecom Services;

(b) if so, how far service delivery has improved in so far as rate of growth of number of connections of each category both landline and mobile as also value added services;